



PUBLIC HEALTH

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Evaluating the Effectiveness of the On-Site Sewage System Rule (Chapter 246-272A WAC)

Washington State Board of Health
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Jerrod Davis, Director, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection

Chapter 246-272A WAC

Protects public health by minimizing:

- The potential for exposure to sewage from on-site sewage systems
- Adverse effects of discharges from on-site sewage systems on ground and surface waters

Chapter 246-272A WAC

Regulates on-site sewage systems (OSS):

- Location
- Design
- Installation
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Monitoring

Chapter 246-272A WAC

- Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) requirement:
 - Local rules must be reviewed by the Department of Health (department)
 - If no local rules, Chapter 246-272A WAC in effect
- LHJ action (as of August 2013):
 - Local rules adopted and approved: 22
 - State rule adopted by reference: 2
 - Defer to Chapter 246-272A WAC: 11

Rule Evaluation Required

WAC 246-272A-0425 requires Department to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the rule every four years
- Determine if revisions are needed
- Report recommendations to SBOH and local health officers
- First rule review in 2009

2013 Evaluation Process

- Online survey sent to LHJs
- Technical Advisory Group meeting
- On-site system rule review panel
- Department staff review

Conclusions

- Rule is currently effective in protecting public health
 - Most survey responses call for “no” or “minor” revisions needed
- Some responses show increasing interest to revise the rule
 - Three key issues identified

Key Issues Identified

- Proprietary treatment product testing requirements and field performance
- Application of treatment levels
- Minimum land area requirements

Department Recommendations

- The Board retain the existing rule
- The department implement the following steps:
 - Work to address three key issues
 - Continue to provide technical assistance
 - Monitor inquiries for new or recurring issues
 - Assist at the national level in preparing standards for evaluating new technologies
 - Continue to track rule issues and future need to revise the rules.

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Questions?